



**QUEEN POMARE IV**  
**‘Aimata Pōmare IV Vahine-o-Punuatera‘itua**

**This is a historical work  
based on the public domain book  
“Polynesian Reminiscences”  
by William Thomas Pritchard  
with edits, images, arrangement  
by Larry W Jones**

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## PART I.

### **Editor's Preface by Berthold Seemann:**

THE present volume does not promulgate any theories on the many questions, scientific, political, and religious, the solution of which invests the islands of the South Seas with so peculiar an interest at the present time; but it furnishes much trust-worthy information on almost every subject connected with their inhabitants. Born in Tahiti, familiar with most of the dialects of the widely-spread Polynesian language, intimately acquainted with every habit and custom of both the light and dark-skinned South Sea Islander, and for many years officially employed by our Government as British Consul, the author enjoyed singular advantages for acquiring information; and the notes he accumulated were so voluminous, that he would have found it far less difficult to produce several volumes on Polynesia than to compress his materials into one.

Indeed, the abundance of the materials was most embarrassing; and the ungrateful task of selecting the best stories and the most curious information has in a great measure, especially since the author's departure for Mexico, fallen to my task as Editor. I may add, that I have endeavoured to acquit myself to the best of my judgment, and that I, not the author, must be held responsible for whatever deficiencies may be observed in the following pages. Having made several voyages to the South Seas when attached to Government expeditions, I have a tolerably fair knowledge of that portion of the globe, and I may perhaps be allowed to state that Mr. Pritchard's pages appear to me to be amongst the most trustworthy and valuable that have as yet issued from the London press, and that they ought to take rank with Ellis's 'Polynesian Researches' and Mariner's 'Tonga,' the two classical works on Polynesia. My personal acquaintance with the author dates from the time when I was attached to the Government mission to the Viti or Fiji Islands, when I was introduced to him by a letter from Lord Russell.

During my stay in those islands, I had ample opportunities of observing the admirable tact, zeal, and industry displayed by Mr. Pritchard in his official capacity; how he used to exert himself all day long in behalf of the daily in-

creasing number of white settlers, and of the numerous natives who claimed his interference or appealed to his love of justice; and how he used to sit up all night, writing dispatches or translating documents, so that no impediment should take place in the next day's proceedings.

He was the first who framed a code of laws for a lawless group of two hundred islands; and these laws are so admirably adapted to the primitive state of society then existing in Fiji, that every man of sense willingly submitted to them. A copy of his code may be seen in the library of the British Museum. No one can read the following pages without feeling that Mr. Pritchard was certainly the right man in the right place.

It is, therefore, melancholy to add that all his tact, zeal, and industry were unavailing; that a combination was formed against him, and that this combination was powerful enough, and lasted long enough, to effect his dismissal from the public service. It is satisfactory to the author's friends, that the moment he was informed of this, he hastened to London to defend himself; but his letters, begging for a fair investigation of his official conduct, were unheeded; and after wasting more than a year in London, and spending a considerable sum of money, he was reluctantly compelled to acknowledge that no justice was to be had for him through the channel by which he sought it.

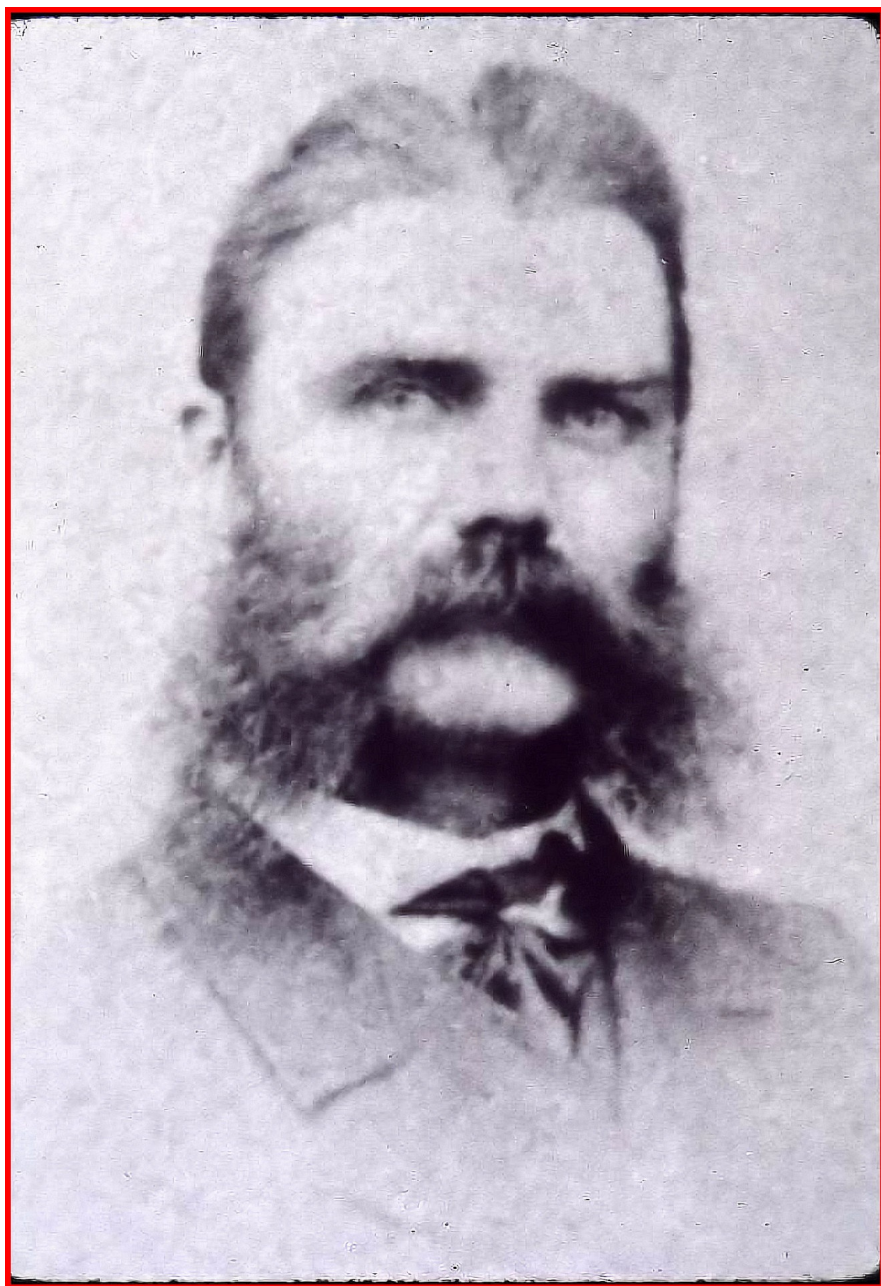
The reader need not, however, fear that this grievance will be intruded on his notice in the following pages: there is hardly an allusion to it, and it is only dire necessity which prompts me to mention the subject at all.

Berthold Seemann, London, October 1, 1866.



## TAHITI UNDER HER NATIVE GOVERNMENT

Born in the Pacific, of English parents, I hardly knew whether to call England or Tahiti my fatherland. "When, as a boy, playing at my mother's feet, I heard her talk of "Old England" as every daughter of England speaks of her native land, I used to feel proud, and flattered myself that I too was English. But when patted on the head by Queen Pomare and called her little favourite, carried about on the backs of her attendants, and every juvenile whim quickly humoured, I forgot all the pretty little stories of the far-off land, and thought only of the present— of the actual before and around me: then there was no place like Tahiti, and I have a lingering fancy that in my childish vanity there was the thought that after all it was perhaps better to be born a Tahitian than an Englishman. But when, at the age of ten, I was sent to the home of my parents, England soon became the fatherland; and as years rolled on Tahiti was remembered only as the lovely little spot where I was born—where I played and romped under the shade of breadfruit trees and orange groves, and along the sandy beaches and over the reefs of the seashore, without thought of Latin grammars or Greek hexameters, of puzzling circles and triangles, or mysterious signs and quantities. "When at last as a schoolboy I learned that Tahiti was no longer the Tahiti of my childhood,—that from the Tahiti of Queen Pomare it had become the Tahiti of Louis Philippe,— I hardly cared to remember even that much. But the little story of that change has never yet been truthfully told, and I shall not apologize for introducing it. Discovered by Wallis on the 19th of June, 1767, ceded to Great Britain by Queen Beria, and the British flag, hoisted at Matavai Bay on the 23rd, Tahiti received the name of "King George the Third's Island," in token of the formal possession declared by its discoverer. Three times visited by the immortal Cook, notably in the annals of science in the year 1794 to observe the transit of Venus, it was on the 7th of March, 1797, that, with the consent of its natives, Tahiti was at length occupied by a band of pioneer Englishmen. These men were sent out by the London Missionary Society to Christianize the Tahitians. With alternate fortunes, but unvarying devotion, this little band toiled at their labour from year to year,—at first with slight, at last with complete success.



WILLIAM THOMAS PRITCHARD



From time to time, the band was recruited from England, and in 1824 my father and mother went out. Appointed to reside at Papeete, which, by reason of its beautiful harbour, became the chief port of the island and the residence of the royal family, as commerce and intercourse with shipping began to develop, my father obtained commanding influence over the sovereign and chiefs. Kind in disposition, affable in manners, ever anxious to benefit the land of his adoption, (perhaps it may be charged upon me that I speak with filial partiality,) my father inevitably, indeed *nolens volens* “like it or not”, became a sort of Queen’s counsellor; and at the solicitation of Pomare he was at length appointed British Consul by King William IV.



**William IV (William Henry; 21 August 1765 – 20 June 1837) was King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and King of Hanover from 26 June 1830 until his death in 1837. The third son of George III, William succeeded his elder brother George IV, becoming the last king and penultimate monarch of Britain's House of Hanover.**

For many long years everything went on smoothly. All the Tahitians, from king to slave, had embraced Christianity; and when, in succession to her royal father, the Princess Aimata became queen under the style of Pomare Vahine I., all bowed in allegiance to the new sovereign, all were of one faith, all were prosperous, contented, and happy under a simple constitutional government, well appointed, and well administered; whilst commerce, industry, and civilization were being rapidly developed.



Happy triflers were those Tahitians, without a touch of sadness in their gaiety, with a boisterous humour that delighted in punning on words and names, and gave traces of intellectual playfulness, as new objects and new ideas were exchanged for the old ones of their paganism.

Under date of October 5th, 1825, Queen Pomare ventured to address King George IV. in these words:— “Never do you cast us off, but continue to be kind to us, even for ever. If agreeable to you, write us a letter, that we may know whether you agree to our wishes.”

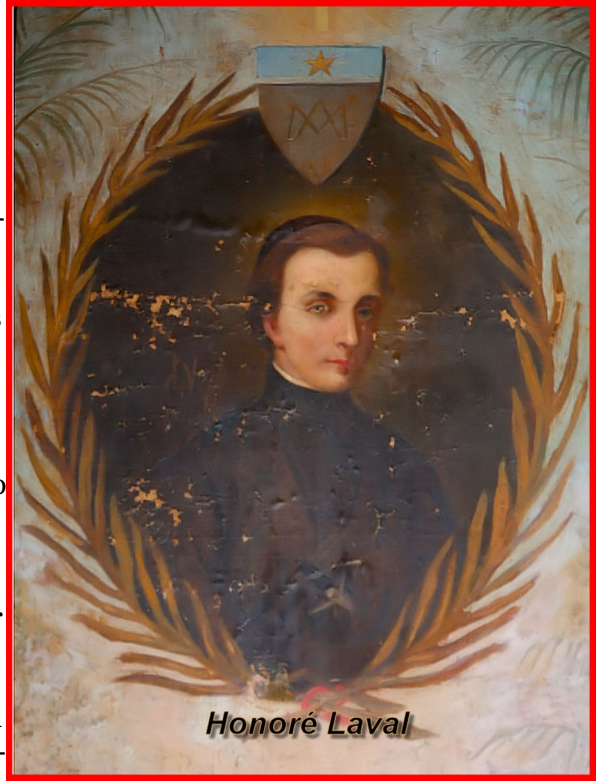
### **Pomare Vahine I.**

To which Mr. Canning replied on the 3rd of March, 1827: “His Majesty commands me to say . . . he will be happy to afford to yourself and your dominions all such protection as his Majesty can grant to a friendly power at so remote a distance from his own kingdoms.” And in proof of these good wishes and implied protection, every British vessel of war that visited the island took out presents from the sovereign of Great Britain to the sovereign of Tahiti.

It was on the 21st of November, 1836, when the little cloud that heralded the storm was first observed. On that day a small schooner, owned and commanded by one William Hamilton, avoiding the regular port of entry, anchored at Tautira, on the eastern aspect of Tahiti. Two Roman Catholic priests, Fathers Laval and Caret, and a carpenter lay-brother, landed, and walked from village to village, telling the natives that the English missionaries had been teaching them falsehoods; and that in simple compassion for their souls, perishing as they were under a Protestant heresy worse than the old Tahitian paganism, they had now come to teach them the truth.



These priests had been some months at Gambier's Island (Mangarava), where they had acquired the Tahitian language, and had quickly ousted the Tahitian teachers placed there by the English missionaries. When in their peregrinations they at length reached Papeete, the capital, the priests were furnished with a copy of the "Port Regulations," the fourth article of which ran thus:— "No master or commander of a vessel is allowed to land any passenger without a special permission from the Queen and governors." At the same time, a special messenger from Queen Pomare stated to them that in default of applying for the required permission they could not be allowed to remain in her dominions. The



*Honoré Laval*

priests replied, "On shore we are, and on shore we intend to remain." After the lapse of several days, the priests, accompanied by Jacques-Antoine Moerenhout, then acting as United States Consul, waited upon the Queen, when each priest tendered her Majesty the sum of thirty dollars, and appealed to the article in the Port Regulations which stated that "No master of a vessel is allowed to put any man (of the crew) on shore without permission, under a penalty of thirty dollars." The priests alleged that by voluntarily paying the thirty dollars each they were entitled to remain on shore without formally asking permission, averring that what applied to the crew applied equally to the passengers. The Queen declined to receive their money, and observed that passengers were viewed in a totally different light from the crew, and that hence the two classes were referred to under separate clauses in the Port Regulations. The priests and their friend Moerenhout retired in high dudgeon, when they found the Queen was firm in her adhesion to the literal observance of the laws of the land. After a further delay, the Queen directed a letter to be addressed to the priests, reminding them that they had not yet complied with the local laws by formally applying for permission to remain in her dominions.



***Jacques-Antoine Moerenhout***

This notification being treated with contemptuous silence, another special messenger waited upon them with a verbal notification to the same effect, and with the same result. In the meantime these repeated delays were so much positive gain to the priests, and they made such good use of them that they managed to attach to themselves the two or three chiefs who had lately fancied themselves aggrieved by being overlooked or otherwise neglected by the Queen and her government. Seeing that the priests offered a nucleus round which the disaffected and turbulent few, found in every state, however narrow its limits, might rally, not that these few loved the priests more than others, but that by ranging themselves on their side, ill-humour was grat-

ified, the Queen and her government became really anxious to be rid of the new-comers.

As the schooner in which the priests went to Tahiti was bound back to Gambier's Island, whence they had come, and where they had established a mission, the Queen requested them to go on board, and return without further delay or parley. They pointedly declared they would not leave Tahiti, and fell back upon a threat, the frequent and reckless use of which by white men of all nations since this its first enunciation, has made it a by-word among the islanders of the Pacific: the priests would await the arrival of a man-of-war to see them righted; in other words, they would await the arrival of a French war-vessel to extort that permission to reside on Tahiti for which they themselves would not personally apply, as explicitly directed by law. The schooner was ready to sail, and the master had waited twenty-four hours, but still the priests refused to go on board. As a last resort, to maintain the integrity of her laws, the Queen issued orders to the proper officers to put the refractory priests on board. The orders were duly obeyed, without causing any personal injuries to the parties, or damage to their effects and chat-

tels, and on the 13th of December, 1836, the priests sailed from Tahiti for Gambier's Island, without incurring any additional expense. A few days after their departure, Lord Edward Russell arrived in H.M.S. Actseon.

*(Note) HMS Actaeon was a 28-gun Coventry-class sixth-rate frigate of the Royal Navy. Her crewing complement was 200 and, when fully equipped, she was armed with 24 nine-pounder cannons, supported by four three-pounders and twelve half-pounder swivel guns.*

The Queen stated her troubles to his Lordship, and sought his advice. A great meeting of Queen, chiefs, and governors, was convened on the 22nd December, and the whole affair duly discussed. At that meeting, after having heard the statements there made, as well as after personal inquiries apart from the meeting, Lord Edward Russell publicly declared, that "in his opinion, the



Queen was quite right in sending those priests off the island, for if they had remained, nothing but anarchy and confusion would have taken place, and the prospects of the island would have been ruined." On the 27th January, 1837, priests appeared again in Tahiti. Fathers Laval and Caret were passengers in the 'Colombo,' an American brig, in which they had taken passage for Valparaíso, with the proviso of calling at Tahiti, to renew the attempt to get a footing there, and if unsuccessful to proceed on their original voyage. Arrived in Papeete harbour, the captain formally applied to the Queen for permission to land his passengers. But, remembering the troubles occasioned by the priests who had before landed clandestinely, and that those two priests had sought to attach to themselves the few disaffected natives, and thus creating a distinctive party inimical to the Government of the Queen, permission was refused. The priests, nothing daunted, attempted to land without permission. As their boat touched the beach, they were met by constables, and requested to return on board their vessel.

For once they obeyed, and proceeded to Valparaiso; and with them the clerical actors pass off the stage, and French naval officers take their place. On the 29th August, 1838, the French 60-gun frigate 'Venus,' bearing the flag of Commodore Du Petit Thouars, anchored in Papeete, now quite a flourishing port, and never without trading brigs and schooners from Sydney on the one side, or Valpai'also on the other, and in the season' with as many as thirty or more whalers recruiting and refitting.



The Commodore landed, and waited upon the American Consul, M. Moerenhout. This gentleman was a Belgian by birth, and, in consequence of the large number of American whalers that frequented Tahiti, had been appointed United States Consul, after a short residence on the island as a trader. Himself a zealous Roman Catholic, he gave his hearty co-operation and protection to the priests from the first. But as soon as the United States Government heard of his countenancing the last attempt to trample underfoot the laws of the state to

whose Sovereign he was accredited those laws and their administration having been always favourably reported by the captains of the American whalers, he was superseded by an American citizen, subsequently appointed French Consul by Commodore Du Petit Thouars. With him Du Petit Thouars was closeted for some hours, and on the following morning the annexed document was handed to Queen Pomare. "On board the French frigate 'Venus,' "Papeete, 30th August, 10a.m., 1838. "To the Queen of Tahiti; "Madam, "The King of the French. and his Government, justly irritated by the outrages offered to the nation by the bad and cruel treatment which some of his members who came to Tahiti have suffered, and especially Messrs. Laval and Caret, Apostolic Missionaries, who called at this island in 1836, has sent me to reclaim, and enforce, if necessary, the immediate reparation due to a great Power and a valiant nation, gravely insulted without provocation. The King and his Government demand—"1 st. That the Queen of Tahiti write to the King of the French to excuse for the violence and other insults offered to Frenchmen, whose honourable conduct did not deserve such treatment. The letter of the Queen will be written in the Tahitian and the French languages, and both will be signed by the Queen.



The said letter of reparation will be sent officially to the Commander of the frigate 'Venus,' within twenty-four hours after the present notification. "2nd. That the sum of two thousand Spanish dollars be paid within twenty-four hours after the present notification into the cashier of the frigate 'Venus,' as an indemnification for Messrs. Laval and Caret, for the loss occasioned to them by the bad treatment they received at Tahiti. "3rd. That after having complied with these two first obligations, the French flag shall be hoisted the first day of September on the island of Motu-uta, and shall be saluted by the Tahitian Government with twenty-one guns.

"I declare to your Majesty, that if the reparation demanded be not subscribed within the specified time, I shall see myself under the obligation to declare war, and to commence hostilities immediately against all the places of your Majesty's dominions, and which shall be continued by all the French vessels of war which shall successively call here, and shall continue to the time when France shall have obtained satisfaction. "I am, of your Majesty, the most respectful Servant, "The Captain of the French frigate 'Venus,' (Signed) A. Du Petit Thouars."



The Queen was at that time residing on a little island called Motu-uta, about a quarter of an acre in size, situated in the harbour of Papeete, and had not yet recovered from her late accouchement. The baby being unwell, the Queen had sent for medical aid to Mr. Barff, an English missionary, and my father, and it was while they were with her Majesty that the French Lieutenant arrived with the document.

He was a tall, stout-built man, and appeared in full uniform. He stood before the Queen, with the paper in one hand, and, speaking in broken English, throwing the other hand about so randomly in his excitement, that the Queen was obliged to draw back every moment to keep out of his reach. His harangue was to the effect that "France was a great nation, had sixty grand frigates like the 'Venus,' and cared for no other nation in the world."



After the withdrawal of the officer, the document was translated to the Queen, and she decided forthwith to convene a meeting of her chiefs, and, leaving the little island, she went to my father's house, to remain there until the business was settled. The guns of the 'Venus' were shotted and run out, the drums beat to quarters, everything was made ready for action, if, at the expiration of the specified time, the demands were not complied with. While awaiting the assembling of her chiefs, the Queen wrote to the Commodore requesting an investigation of the complaints preferred, and reminding him that in civilized countries it was customary to give the accused an opportunity for defense, and expressing her willingness, if the charges were proven, to make the demanded reparation. At her Majesty's request, my father was the bearer of the letter, but Commodore Du Petit Thouars declined to receive any communication of any kind, nor would he hear any verbal explanations.

He "had made his demands, and if they were not complied with by ten o'clock the next morning, he would carry out his threats." A guard was now placed round the little island where the Queen had her residence, and another round her Majesty's yacht, and an embargo was laid on all the shipping in the port, none were to leave until the business was settled. After my father had been on shore some few minutes, the Commodore sent him a letter, offering his vessel as an asylum during the bombardment of the town. Seeing that the chiefs could not possibly assemble from all parts of the island within the specified time, and that the gallant Commodore was apparently determined to carry out his threats, my father, together with two or three other Englishmen, subscribed the two thousand dollars demanded, and paid the amount into the hands of the "cashier of the frigate," on behalf of Queen Pomare. My father still holds Commodore Du Petit Thouars' receipt for the amount.

The demand to hoist the French flag on Motu-uta, and salute it with twenty-one guns, was not so easily complied with. There were some half-dozen old condemned cannons, of which, on examination, but one only was fit for service, and the royal arsenal could produce only five charges of powder! The failure of a salute entailed the vengeance of the Commodore, and what was to be done? My father went on board the 'Venus,' to state these embarrassing facts, and the following singular scene occurred on the quarter-deck of the French frigate:

*British Consul.* If you insist upon the French flag being saluted by Queen Pomare with twenty-one guns, you must yourself supply the powder, for the Queen has not enough for more than five charges.

*French Commodore.* That does put me in one difficult position. If I give powder, it will be seen in one newspaper in France that I did give the Indians French powder to salute mine own French flag.

*A pause*,—both parties in deep thought. Suddenly the French Commodore continues:— I tell you what, Monsieur le Consul, I can do dis, I shall give some powder to you as de British Consul, and you can do as you like with it; you understand. Monsieur le Consul?

*British Consul.* But what about the guns? there is only one fit for use.

*French Commodore.*, (after a pause, and passing his hand across his forehead),—I shall do dis, I shall lend you, as Mousieieur le Consul d'Angleterre, some instruments which shall make any guns in de world fire good: you shall do what you like with them.

Thus, at half-past nine, on the morning of the 1st of September, 1838, with minute guns and French powder, the tricolour of France was duly saluted by the Queen of Tahiti, Louis Philippe and his Government were appeased, the demands of Du Petit Thouars satisfied, and Pomare's little coral-kingdom saved for the nonce!

The Commodore rested on his laurels until the 5th, when he met the Queen and chiefs at a public meeting, to introduce the French Consul, M. Moerenhout. The Queen objected to grant him 'an exequatur. The Commodore grew wroth, and demanded the instant recognition of the appointment. The Queen demurred that she had had quite enough of M. Moerenhout as United States Consul, without again receiving him in an official capacity. She was willing to receive a French Consul, but begged that he might be a French citizen and a stranger,—any one rather than M. Moerenhout. The Commodore declared if the Consul were not promptly received, the rejection would be accepted as a declaration of war by Tahiti against France. Thereupon the Queen succumbed to the Commodore, and M. Moerenhout was accepted as French Consul.

The Commodore had not yet finished his labours,— a treaty must be drawn up and signed forthwith. The Queen objected to any treaty with France. The Commodore repelled her objection by stating that France had power, and could act with or without treaties; but if the Queen signed a treaty with France, the King of the French would look upon her as his friend. The Queen trembled before the stern diplomatist, and signed the following treaty:—

"Convention between his Majesty Louis Philippe I., King of the French, represented by Captain Abel 'Du Petit Thouars, Officer of the Legion of Honour, commanding the French frigate 'Venus,' and her Majesty Pomare, Queen of Tahiti. "There shall be perpetual peace and friendship between the French and the Tahitian peoples. "The French, whatsoever may be their profession, shall come and go freely, establish themselves, and trade among all the islands Under the Government of Tahiti; they shall be received and protected' on the same footing as the most favoured nation.

“The subjects of the Queen of Tahiti shall go and come to and from France freely, and they shall be received and treated there as the people of the most favoured nation. “Made and sealed at the palace of the Queen of Tahiti, at Papeete, the 5th of September, 1838. “A. Do Petit Thouaes. “Pomare V.”

### **FRENCH DEMANDS SATISFIED:**

When the Queen remarked that, as her subjects were all Protestants, she did not desire any priests to teach them Roman Catholicism, the Commodore replied, that as Frenchmen, all priests must receive full protection under the Tahitian government, but that, at the same time, it was competent to her Majesty to enact a law forbidding the teaching of the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church in her dominions.

And now, with his two thousand dollars on board, the French flag saluted with twenty-one guns with French powder and the treaty in his pocket. Commodore Du Petit Thouars bethought himself to do the amiable. He presented to Queen Pomare a barrel-organ. And well do I remember that wonderful instrument! It was the first, as a boy, I had ever seen, and I looked at it on all sides, in and out, and to this day I never see a vagabond grinding an organ and making nuisance for the million, without thinking of Du Petit Thouars. This organ created quite a “sensation” in Tahiti, for “something ominously prophetic,” in the words of the natives, happened as it was being carried into the Queen’s house. Just as the men with it in their hands entered the doorway, a mysterious creaking noise was heard.



One looked at another in mute astonishment,—and again there was the mysterious creaking sound. Whence came that sound? None could tell! Did it come from the organ? Again the mysterious creaking sound! The men stood terrified, motionless, in the doorway, still holding the organ. The Queen told her attendants to look round and find out whence the sound proceeded. Three posts of the house were found with a-rent the whole length from the ground to the top! “Pomare e, ua riro to tatou hau!” “o Pomare; our'kingdom

is gone!’ exclaimed a grey-headed old chief, in attendance upon his Queen. ‘Ua afaa te haul!’ “The Kingdom is rent!” mourned aloud a venerable seer.

All present began to predict an inauspicious future for their country, and the barrel-organ of Du Petit Thouars was the mysterious harbinger of the pending evil!

On the following day, the Queen was invited to dine on board the 'Venus, a promise of a salute of twenty-one guns,—a "royal salute." 'Her Majesty declined the invitation, with the remark that she had no powder to give the Commodore with 'which to salute her own flag. The Commodore was chagrined, and begged my father as a personal favour to use his influence to induce the Queen to grace his table. My father suggested that perhaps her Majesty had better follow her own inclination in the matter. Failing her Majesty, my father was honoured with an invitation to breakfast and at the breakfast table,—I presume it was a sly joke of the versatile Commodore's, for he was at times as facetious in his own way as he was warlike,—he sought to enlist my father's sympathies for the crews of vessels visiting Tahiti, by soliciting his influence, in favour of the Commodore's request that the Queen should license a number of Tahitian women as prostitutes. At length Commodore Du Petit Thouars sailed from Tahiti, and once more Queen Pomare breathed freely, but always remembered the mysterious coincidence of the organ and the rent in the posts of her house.

Become literally in dread of the very name of Frenchman, Queen Pomare, under date of November 8th, 1838, addressed Queen Victoria:  
 "Salutations, greetings, and friendship to the mighty Queen of England. I, Queen Pomare, with chiefs and representatives of my people, assembled this day as one body and soul, to manifest to you with the greatest delight our sentiments of obligation under which your constant and Christian sympathy has laid us.

"In doing so, we are not only fulfilling a duty transmitted to us by a generation nearly gone by, but, accustomed from childhood to cherish the English name, we are obeying the impulse of our own hearts. Since the first Englishman neared our shores in one of your vessels, we have praised you as the only nation which showed us a Christian heart; and now may you lend us a Christian hand!

"The blessing of your religion, which, through your pious exertions, you taught us to follow, opened to us two new ways to two new worlds, unknown heretofore to our poor people. With the teachings of Christianity and the paternal care of the missionaries, we may hope to secure one of these worlds; but the other, that into which civilization leads us, begins already to embitter our life, and will ultimately deprive us even of the dominion of the graves of our ancestors, if we are left to our own resources. "The commerce and industry which civilization attracts to our islands, put us into daily relations with the white people, superior to us in mind and body, and to whom our

institutions appear foolish and our government feeble. We made our exertions, with the concurrence of what our poor experience and knowledge taught us, to obviate these difficulties; but, if we have succeeded in enacting the laws, we cannot succeed in giving them the strength and force which they require.

"Thus, in our utter impossibility to make ourselves strong and respected, we are threatened in what we have dearest to our hearts, our Protestant faith and our nationality. "We have nobody to assist us in our helplessness except you, who implanted in our hearts, through your people, the love of Jehovah, the love of order and industry. Do not let these good seeds perish; do not leave unfinished what you have begun, and what is progressing so well. Lend us your powerful hand, take us under your protection; let your flag cover us, and your lion defend us. Determine the form through which we can shelter ourselves under your wings; cause our children to bless you, and to cherish your Christian feelings, as we do.

"May the great Jehovah preserve you, and recompense you for all you do in our behalf. "Peace be with you, the Queen of Great Britain."

In reply, my father was instructed by the Foreign Office to assure Queen Pomare that her Majesty will at all times be ready to attend to any representations that Queen Pomare may wish to make, and will always be glad to give the protection of her good offices to Queen Pomare in any differences which may arise between Queen Pomare and any other Power."

In due course another French frigate arrived - L 'Artémise,' commanded by Captain La Place. Sailing down the north-east coast of Tahiti, she struck upon a sunken rock, and was so much injured, that but for the timely assistance of Captain Ebrill (a son-in-law of one of the English missionaries), together with a party of natives who knew the reefs and tides, she would have been totally wrecked; as it was, she was taken into Papeete harbour in an almost sinking condition. There Captain La Place found it necessary to discharge everything from his vessel, and went on shore to hire men to pump to keep her afloat, and women to attend his crew. The captain's clerk went round the town, from house to house, noting down in a book on one side the names of the men willing to hire for the former work, and on the other side the women willing to hire for the latter. In common justice to Captain La Place, it must be added, that he caused the terms of the engagements to be openly and fully stated, so that there could be no possible misunderstanding as to the various stipulations. In about ten weeks L 'Artémise was ready for sea, all her repairs completed, and the Tahitian labourers paid off, when Captain La Place made known to Queen Pomare his desire to meet her Majesty and the chiefs in public meeting. A meeting being convened. Captain La Place stated, 1st, He had" heard that a law had been made, forbid-



ding the teaching of the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church in Tahiti; 2nd, The law must be forthwith repealed; 3rd, Failing the immediate repeal of the law, he would commence hostilities and fire upon the town. The Queen's Speaker, Nu'utere, replied that the law in question was made at the suggestion of Commodore Du Petit Thouars, who had in a public meeting explicitly stated the Queen's competence to enact such law; and that the law applied, not to Roman Catholics only, but to the priests of every creed other than the Protestantism she, together with her subjects, had embraced. Captain La Place pointed to his frigate, and told the Queen that there were the guns and the powder and the shot to repeal the law, if not forthwith repealed at that meeting. And the law was accordingly repealed at that meeting.



### **French Frigate L'Artémise being hauled and repaired**

The next demand was for a piece of land at Papeete for a site for a Roman Catholic church. The demand was agreed to. Then followed a requisition, that in every town or village where there was a Protestant chapel, there must be built gratuitously a Roman Catholic one. This too was promised. Then Captain La Place held forth the following document, and demanded the Queen's signature on pain of "immediate death and devastation coming to your island, which shall be continued by every French war vessel arriving at Tahiti — "Queen Poxnare and the Great Chiefs of Tahiti, wishing to give to France a proof of their desire to maintain with her their friendly relations, assure to Frenchmen calling at Tahiti, either for commercial purposes or

with the intention of residing, that they shall not be molested in their religious duties.

“We have agreed to the demand of Captain La Place, Commander of the French frigate ‘L’Artémise,’ that this article shall be put into the Treaty formerly made in September, 1838, between Queen Pomare and Captain Du Petit Thouars.

“The free exercise of the Catholic religion shall be given on the island of Tahiti, and in all the possessions of Queen Pomare. French Catholics shall enjoy the same” privileges as the Protestants, without, under any pretext, intermeddling with the religion of the country. “POMARE V”. “C. La Place”. “Tahiti, 20 June, 1839”.

These various concessions obtained, Captain La Place was ready to sail from Tahiti.



**La frégate L'Artémise entrant à Tanoa**



## PART II.

### Tahiti Ceded To France

I n compliance with repeated invitations, Queen Pomare, near the end of 1840, went on a visit to the “Leeward Islands,” commonly called the Society Islands, the Chief Paraita being appointed Regent during her Majesty’s absence. My father also left Tahiti on the 2nd of February, 1841, on leave of absence, to visit England, my mother remaining still at Tahiti. M. Moerenhout, the French Consul, now had everything his own way, and soon won the confidence of the Regent, who became his fast friend. Before the Queen returned, M. Moerenhout had quietly obtained the signatures of the Regent and three of the leading chiefs to the following document, which at the time of signature bore no date —

“This is a word from the Representative of the Queen and the Chiefs of Tahiti, administering the government of the Queen, now absent, to the French Consul, J. A. Moerenhout. Health to you. On account of the growth of evil in this land among certain foreigners residing here, who are breaking our laws and regulations, who kill people, and commit all manner of crimes, and who are being protected by influential persons residing here as the representatives of countries where those crimes are punished with greater rigour than in ours; this is our word to you. Make known this our word to the King of France, that he may speak to a captain of a ship of war to visit this island, to examine the regulations of this land, and assist us in enforcing the laws of this country, and also to assist us in reference to the false decisions resolved upon. And when our practices shall be understood and the truth made known, then the evil designed by the false party will be removed. Make known our word to the King of France, we wish him to assist us. It is our wish that you send this our desire. Peace be with you,  
 “Paraita, Regent, “Paete, Hitoti, Tati, Governors of Districts.

When, on her return the Queen discovered what had been secretly done, she wrote at once to the King of the French, to Queen Victoria, and to the President of the United States, entirely disavowing the document, and stating that it had been surreptitiously obtained by the French Consul during her

absence. How the signatures of the Regent and his three accomplices were obtained, is recorded by the Regent himself in a note addressed to the British Vice-Consul in charge of the Consulate during my father's absence.

"Dear Friend Cunningham,—This is our word to you respecting the letter which M. Moerenhout, the French Consul, brought, that we might write our names to it. This declare to you, that we did not know what had been written, we did not rightly understand the nature of the writing. We signed our names to that letter ignorantly. Let that document be thoroughly undone. By no means let the letter written by Moerenhout be acted upon. That is all we have to say.—Paeaita."

Again, in 1843, when the Queen instituted a stringent inquiry into the proceedings of the Regent, the Chiefs Tati and Utami declared in evidence that M. Moerenhout himself wrote the letter; that he got them into his house in the night to sign their names, under a promise of one thousand dollars each; that they signed it before the Queen either saw or signed it; and that in all they did they acted under fear.

The Queen received from the French Admiral, Buglet, an assurance, which, gratifying as it was at the moment, was subsequently totally contradicted by the acts of another French Admiral. Writing from the French frigate 'Thetis,' in the Bay of Valparaiso," under date of the 21st January, 1842, Admiral Buglet tells the Queen:—

"I know that many alarm your Majesty by stating the intentions of France in regard to your possessions, but I can assure you that the Government of the King neither wishes to conquer' your States nor to take them under its protection; that which it wishes is to maintain with Tahiti the amicable relations which it has with other States. As soon as possible, my successor. Bear-Admiral Du Petit Thouars, will send a ship of war to Tahiti, not to enforce the execution of treaties which your Majesty, I am convinced, has not broken, but to prove to you yet further the advantages you derive from your amity with the French, and that our missionaries wish nothing but to do good to your subjects, and not to put arms into their hands, as some seek to persuade your Majesty, in order to injure them in your opinion and that of your subjects.

Again, on the 21st August, 1842, Queen Pomare was gratified by assurances of a similar nature from Captain Du Bouzé, commanding the corvette 'L'Aube. Early in September, 1842, Du Petit Thouars once more appeared at Tahiti, after a visit to France and his promotion to the command in chief of the French naval forces in the Pacific. His first week in port was spent in quiet daily interviews with the French Consul. At the expiration of that time,

M. Moerenhout requested the Regent, Paraita, to invite Utami and Tati, two of the great chiefs, to a friendly interview with the Admiral. They came, and what took place is thus described by the Chief Tati:—

“When Admiral Du Petit Thouars arrived, the Regent sent for Utami and me, telling us that M. Moerenhout and the Admiral wished to see us at a friendly interview at Papeete. From the Consul’s house we went on board the Admiral’s ship, with the other chiefs and the Regent. We were told by the Admiral that he had come to Tahiti because the flag of the priests had been insulted and hauled down, Frenchmen had been maltreated, and the words of the Consul of France had been disregarded. The Admiral said he had great compassion in his heart towards us, but his compassion must give way to his duty to his King, and he must demand redress. The Queen must either give him money or Tahiti, or he would fire upon the land. We were greatly afraid, and talked amongst ourselves. The Chief Utami and I said to the Regent, ‘Is this the friendly meeting you asked us to attend?’ The Regent said, ‘Who would have expected such work as this!’ It was now night, and when we had taken some wine, we all went ashore to M. Moerenhout’s house. There he showed us the agreement, and told us to sign our names at once. We objected. The Regent said all would be well if we signed our names. I told him that he was the Queen’s representative, and that if he said all would be right, we could do nothing else but sign. M. Moerenhout said we should all have one thousand dollars each if we put our names to the paper, and then we signed it. We were afraid of the Admiral and his great words. The Chief Utami said, ‘How will it be with Britain in this matter?’ M. Moerenhout replied, ‘This is between France and Tahiti; Britain will be work for me.’”

On the day after the interview, Admiral Du Petit Thonars’ frigate ‘La Eeine Blanche,’ was prepared for action; springs were put on her cables, guns shotted and run out, and boats armed. Notice was sent to the various Consuls, that “difficulties of a grave nature having arisen which would probably lead to hostilities, ‘La Eeine Blanche’ was offered as an asylum for themselves and their families.” The Queen was at Moorea, an island some nine miles from Tahiti, and under her Government. Her Majesty was summoned by the gallant Admiral “to appear at once at Tahiti to answer to the demands of the great French nation for indemnity for injuries and injustice suffered by Frenchmen at the hands of the Tahitians.” Her Majesty was hourly expecting her confinement, and sent over the Rev. A. Simpson, an English missionary, together with Tairapa, one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, as her delegates. Mr. Simpson was soon disposed of. M. Moerenhout wrote to him thus:—



“The French Admiral, Du Petit Thouars, has commanded me to inform you that he will not receive you as a messenger from the Queen of Tahiti, you being an Englishman and a missionary.” Tairapa was received, and directed to return forthwith to his royal mistress with the document which the Regent and the Chiefs had already signed, and with the Admiral’s message;— “Sign this paper, or pay ten thousand dollars within twenty-four hours; if the paper with the Queen’s signature or the money be not before me within the twenty-four hours, I fire upon Papeete without further notice.” It was evening when Tairapa arrived in the presence of his Queen and delivered the message. Long and severe was the struggle, whether her Majesty would sign or not. Silent and thoughtful, Pomare lay on her bed in the pains of labour, putting off the moment of decision as long as possible. At length Tairapa reminded her Majesty that the hour was approaching when he must return with the answer,—her signature or her money.

“Money?” she exclaimed, “where has Pomare ten thousand dollars in cash? I have the land of my ancestors and I have my people, but where have I ten thousand dollars?” And then Pomare wept! She sent for Mr. Simpson:— “My good missionary, I must sign this paper. I sign it only through my great fear, very reluctantly. I cannot pay the fine. If the Admiral fires on my people, they will massacre all the white men in Papeete before they run to their mountains. Therefore I sign this paper through my great fear of the French, and to prevent the bloodshed they will cause by firing on my people.” And then, weeping and sobbing as she took the pen, Queen Pomare signed her name to the document, and Tahiti was gone! Turning to her sleeping boy, she took him up in her arms and exclaimed, as audibly as her sobs would let her, “My child, my child, I have signed away your birthright!”

The following is the document:—

“Tahiti, September 9, 1842. “To Admiral Du Petit Thouars. “As in the present state of affairs we can no longer govern so as to preserve a good understanding with foreign governments, without exposing ourselves to the loss of our islands, our authority, and our liberty, we, the undersigned, the Queen and the principal chiefs of Tahiti, address the present letter to you, to solicit the King of the French to take us under his protection, upon the following conditions:—

“1. The sovereignty of the Queen, and her authority, and the authority of the chiefs over their people, shall be guaranteed to them.

“2. All laws and regulations shall be issued in the Queen’s name, and signed by her.

“3. The possession of lands belonging to the Queen and to the people shall be secured to them, and shall remain in their possession; all disputes rela-

tive to the right to property or lands shall be under the special jurisdiction of the tribunals of the country.

“4. Every one shall be free in the exercise of his form of worship or religion.

“5. The Churches at present established shall continue to exist, and the English missionaries shall continue their labours without molestation. The same shall apply to every other form of worship, no one shall be molested or constrained in his belief.

“Under these conditions, the Queen and the principal chiefs solicit the protection of the King of the French, resigning into his hands, or to the care of the French Government, or to the person appointed by him and approved by Queen Pomare, the direction of all relations with foreign . governments, as well as everything relative to foreign residents, port regulations, etc. etc., and of such further measures as he may judge necessary for the preservation of peace and good understanding.

“(Signed) P omare. Paraita, Regent. Utami. Hitoti, Tati.”

Queen Pomare signed the original document, written in French, in the handwriting of a French officer; she never knew one word of its contents, (much less conceived them herself,) until the paper was put into her hands by Tairapa. Mr. Charles Wilson, the son of one of the early English missionaries, translated into Tahitian that original French-written document signed by Queen Pomare. Yet, when this document was transmitted to France, it was called a translation of the Tahitian document voluntarily signed by Queen Pomare, and was published as such! Any one with a knowledge of Tahitian, comparing the two, will observe at a glance which is the original and which the translation. The Tahitian copy by its very construction, by the absence of tautology and Polynesian idioms, bears on its very face the fact, that it is a translation, and not a composition dictated by a Tahitian mind or written by a Tahitian hand.

In a few minutes after this document was received on board ‘La Eeine Blanche,’ the Admiral Du Petit Thouars issued a reply, acceding to the request for “French protection,” and concluding with these words:— “Madam and Gentlemen. The decision which you have just taken, so honourable to my Government, removes every symptom of dissatisfaction to which the harsh measures towards our countrymen had given rise. I am happy to see an end put to our differences and am convinced that a mutual good feeling will promptly strengthen the bonds which unite us.”

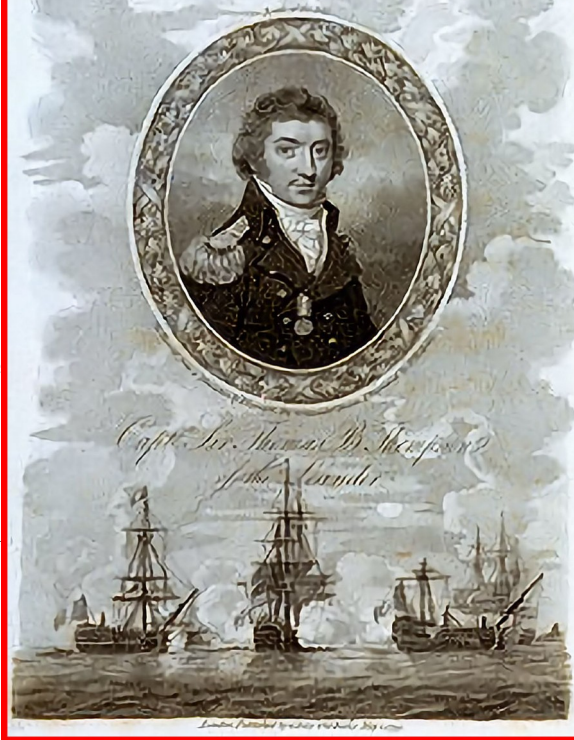
And now the natives and their Queen had time to ask themselves what were the harsh measures to which Frenchmen had been subjected? What injury or injustice had any Frenchman suffered? or, indeed, any white man of any nation? The whole of the acts charged upon the Tahitians, which had avowedly called forth the imperative demands of Admiral Du Petit Thouars,

if they existed anywhere, existed only in his own imagination and that of the French Consul, M. Moerenhout. Hence, Admiral Du Petit Thouars, from the day the anchor of 'La Eeine Blanche' was dropped in Papeete harbour to the day when it was lifted, made no specific charges, cited no instances of injury or injustice, held no meetings of investigation; all the proceedings were avowedly based upon the Admiral's assertion of injury and injustice to Frenchmen in general. It was certainly true that, of late, so great was the dread of the French, that any man transgressing any of the laws of the country had merely to proclaim himself a Frenchman to escape even the pretense of a trial or punishment. Only one foreigner was ever executed by the Tahitian authorities, and he was a Spanish negro who had murdered Mrs. Moerenhout, and for which murder, after a fair trial by jury, he was duly hanged. It was true that one Maruc, a French trader, had knocked down Moia, a Tahitian policeman, in the act of separating two dogs that were fighting; and Moia, deprived of his badge, had been sentenced to banishment from Papeete, at the demand of the French consul, because, as he was pushing his way through the crowd, after the manner of policemen, his elbow touched Maruc. It was true that some naughty little boys made three or four toy-vessels, and put them in the sea in front of the French Consulate, and, making one vessel run into the others and sink them, they called aloud, "See the English ship sink the French!" for which insult an apology was promptly offered to the indignant Consul. And, in compliance with the law of the land, which directed that spirits smuggled on shore should be seized and poured on the ground, it was time that casks of bad brandy and worse rum found in the houses of Frenchmen, Englishmen, or Americans, as the case might be, had now and again been seized, and the smuggled casks emptied. Any other possible grievances no one could think of; in fact, there were none whatever.

Having, however, thus obtained the application for French protection, the gallant Admiral organized a Provisional Government, consisting of M. Moerenhout, with the title of King's Commissioner M. Eeine, lieutenant of 'La Eeine Blanche,' as "Military Governor and M. De Carpegna, also one of the frigate's lieutenants, as "Captain of the Port." Then followed proclamation after proclamation, providing laws, courts, and all the administrative faculties of a new state. In proclamation No. 1 is the remarkable sentence, "and in consideration of the total absence of laws and regulations which may serve as a basis for society." I call this a remarkable sentence, because I have before me a dozen or more letters and documents, bearing the Admiral's signature, in which there are frequent appeals to the existing "laws and regulations of the country." And there is another sentence in that same proclamation which offers a striking contrast to the former one:— "All judgments shall be pronounced according to the laws of the country previously promulgated?" Possibly the proclamation was a postprandial composition.

The French flag was now introduced into the upper canton of the Tahitian colours, and the amalgamation was called the "protectorate flag." And a little story hangs by this same "protectorate flag." About the middle of January, 1843, Captain Sir Thomas Thompson arrived at Tahiti, in H.M.S. Talbot, sent expressly to observe the proceedings of the French, and to convey a letter to Queen Pomare from Rear-Admiral Thorpas, commander-in-chief of the British naval forces in the Pacific. As soon as his arrival was announced to the Queen, who was still at Moorea, her Majesty hastened over to Tahiti to meet Sir Thomas Thompson. As the Queen entered the harbour with the old Tahitian flag flying, red, white, and red, lengthwise, in equal breadths,—a salute of twenty-one guns 'was fired from the British vessel, and the old Tahitian flag run up to the mast-head. The wrath of the Provisional Government was excited, and a protest addressed to Sir Thomas Thompson:—

### **Captain Sir Thomas Thompson**



"Provisional Government of Tahiti. "We, the Members of Council, having discussed and deliberated upon the events of this day, protest as follows;—

"1st. We protest against the right the captain of the English corvette 'Talbot' has arrogated to himself in hoisting and saluting the old Tahiti flag, rendering himself responsible to the King of the French, his Government, and the French nation, for this want of regard for the treaty made with a foreign nation in their name. We render him also responsible for all the troublesome consequences that may arise in this country through a step so openly hostile to France.

"2nd. We protest against any right that the captain of the English corvette 'Talbot,' or any other foreign authority, may arrogate to himself, to enter into political relations and to conclude treaties with Queen Pomare, seeing that the said Sovereign has ceded to the King of the French all her rights rel-

ative to the exterior relations of her estates; and we declare, in the name of the Government of the King of the French, that all opposition to the treaty concluded between France and Queen Pomare is null, void, and must be considered as disrespectful and hostile towards France.

"The Members of Council,

"(Signed) J. E. Moerenhout, The Consul Commissioner of the King.

"E. Reine, The Military Governor.

"De Carpegna, The Captain of the Port.

"Tahiti, January 18th, 1843."

In reply to Sir Thomas Thompson's inquiry respecting the so-called application for the French protectorate, "Did your Majesty cause the letter which was written to Admiral Du Petit Thouars to be sent to him, and did your Majesty sign it of your own free will?" Queen Pomare replied, "I did not cause the letter to be sent. The chiefs whose names are affixed to it signed it first. It was then sent over to Moorea to me, and I signed it because I was frightened and compelled. I did not sign it with my own free will. When my ambassador, Tairapa, returned from the Admiral, he informed me that if I did not sign the paper, Du Petit Thouars would fire upon my land." The Provisional Government, being unable to deter Sir Thomas Thompson from continuing friendly relations with the Queen, M. Moerenhout found vent for his spleen by doing all he could to annoy her Majesty, systematically conducting himself most offensively in her presence, especially in the matter of the flag. In a letter dated 10th February, 1843, the Queen tells Sir Thomas Thompson that M. Moerenhout, "violently ordering me to command the people to hoist the new flag, shook his head at me, threw his hands about right before my face, and stared fiercely at me." And the poor woman adds, "I protested against his conduct, and told him he was a troublesome man."

When Sir Thomas Thompson sailed from Tahiti, Queen Pomare entrusted to his care a letter to Queen Victoria, giving the details of the troubles which had overtaken the Tahitians. On the 24th February, 1843, my father returned to Tahiti in H.M.S. 'Vindictive,' commanded by Commodore Toup Nicolas. Queen Pomare was rejoiced to see her old friend once more, and was proud to welcome the gallant Commodore, who afterwards did her so much good service; and M. Moerenhout placed himself on the *qui vive* to watch all that transpired. He soon found that Queen Victoria had sent a carriage and a set of drawing-room furniture as presents for Queen Pomare; that his Excellency Sir George Gipps, Governor of New South Wales, had sent, also in the name of her Britannic Majesty, various articles of furniture, and handsome dresses for the King Consort, the three little Princes, and the Princess; and that my father had been instructed by his Government to accompany these presents "with expressions of sympathy and friendly consideration.



### ***H.M.S. Vindictive***



A FOURTH RATE - 38 GUN FRIGATE

Capt. Elliot - Standard 1844 - Weather quarter view

On the morning after the arrival of the 'Vindictive,' the old Tahitian flag was once more hoisted at the Queen's residence, and saluted with twenty-one British guns. As there was no distinctive mark in the Queen's flag by which the presence of her Majesty might be known, and as difficulties had already arisen from the absence of such distinction, her Majesty was pleased, at the suggestion of Commodore Nicolas, to order a crown to be put into the white part of her flag. This gave great offense to the Provisional Government, and subsequently Admiral Du Petit Thouars demanded the removal of the crown, as being too much like the English crown. It was contrary to Commodore Nicolas's nature to see a woman, and above all an unoffending Queen, wantonly treated as Pomare was. He stated plainly to the Queen, "I will protect you from further insult and oppression as long as my ship will swim." And while he was at Tahiti, Pomare enjoyed a respite from her troubles; and, although there was at the same time a French frigate at anchor close to the 'Vindictive,' the tone of the Provisional Government, and even that of M. Moerenhout individually, became so moderated, that her Majesty almost fancied herself restored once more to her former independence. Commodore Nicolas had everything his own way. The old code of Tahitian laws was revised; a Legislative Assembly, composed of native chiefs, was convened; various local improvements initiated; and when a rumour got

afloat that the natives were about to rise to drive the Provisional Government on board the French frigate, application was made to Commodore Nicolas to protect them from the vengeance of the Tahitians. After a stay of nearly six months, the 'Vindictive' sailed from Tahiti, and with her disappeared the last semblance of Tahitian independence.

On the 30th September, 1843, Captain Tucker arrived in H.M.S. 'Dublin' and on the 1st of November Admiral Du Petit Thouars returned with the announcement that the King of the French had duly accepted the Protectorate of Tahiti and the Society Islands. On the 4th Captain Bruat arrived, and was installed as "Commissioner of the King to Queen Pomare and the Great Chiefs of the Society Islands." In the evening of the 6th, while the Queen was at my father's house, M. de Carpegna, captain of the port, called with a request from the Admiral for an immediate interview. Her Majesty offered to receive him in the British Consulate. This the Admiral, who was pacing up and down in front of our house, declined; and a meeting was arranged for the next morning, at eight o'clock, at the Queen's residence. In the meantime my father received from the Admiral a notification that, "in consequence of actions alike hostile and offensive to the dignity of the King and of France, he found himself under the necessity no longer to recognize Queen Pomare as the Sovereign of the lands and people of the Society Islands; and that tomorrow, in the name of the King and of France, he would take official possession of the islands."

At the meeting at eight o'clock of the morning of the 7th November, the Admiral introduced M. Bruat as the King's Commissioner, and ordered the Queen's personal flag, which was flying over her residence, to be hauled down; if it were not down by noon, he would send an armed force on shore, and take immediate possession of the island. The report of these threats quickly spread from house to house; the natives were all excitement, and anxiety to see if they would really be called into execution. To prevent the people from rising, and attempting to oppose any force the Admiral might land, the Queen issued the following proclamation:—

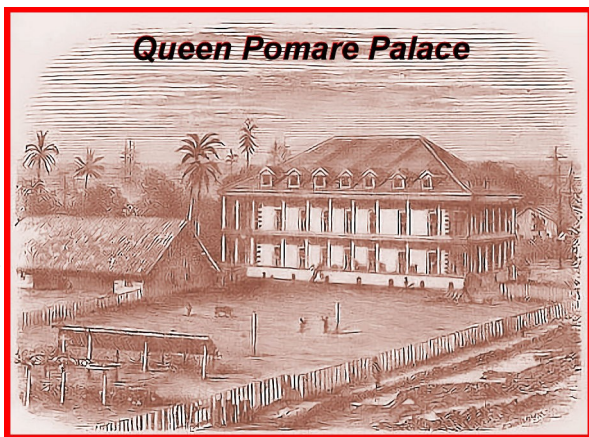
"Ye Governors, Chiefs, and all men in my dominions.— This is my word to you, keep perfectly quiet. Should you even be ill-treated, still keep quiet, and bear it patiently. Rely upon the justice and the clemency of the King of the French and the other Sovereigns of Europe.

"Pomare V, Queen of Tahiti. "November 7th, 1843."

At noon the Queen's flag, with the crown on it, still waved from her flagstaff; and at noon precisely, the French troops disembarked, and five hundred men, with bands playing and colours flying, marched to the Queen's house, where they found a few chiefs in charge. Forming square in the Queen's

yard, the officer in command harangued his troops, telling them that in the name of his Majesty Louis Philippe, their king and master, they now took possession of Queen Pomare's dominions; and, having flourished his sword in the air, he pointed to the Queen's flagstaff, and ordered the flag to be hauled down, as he himself stood in attitude with his arms folded on his breast, after the great Napoleon. The Tahitian flag disappeared; the tricolour waved from the flagstaff; the troops gave three cheers, and shouted "Vive le Roi! La belle France! La belle France!" A royal salute proclaimed the incorporation of Tahiti with France; and covered with smoke, the gallant officer who stepped forward and putting his foot on the crown in Pomare's flag, exclaimed in broken English, "Here goes the crown of England once more in the dirt!" and three cheers more echoed the exclamation. One of the old chiefs had the chivalry to stand up in presence of the host and solemnly to protest, in the name of the Queen, against these doings, but his protest was of course unheeded. The keys of the Queen's house were demanded, and Pomare, deprived at once of house and kingdom, fled for refuge to the British Consulate.

The natives crowded round my father's house to get a look at their Queen. Old grey-headed men and stalwart youths came weeping bitterly—in true Polynesian style—praying the Queen to revoke her words and give permission to attack the French while yet they were in her house. Firmly she refused their prayer and counselled submission; and my father



added his influence to dissuade them from precipitating a collision. Captain Tucker, of H.M.S. 'Dublin,' and my father protested officially against these proceedings; my father struck his consular flag, on the ground that he was accredited as Consul to the Queen's, and not to a French Government; but though striking his flag, he reserved to himself his functions as Consul until the instructions of his Government should be received. On the same day, the 7th November, 1843—a day memorable in the annals of Tahiti—a proclamation

was issued, announcing the deposition of Queen Pomare and the occupation of the island in the name of the King of the French; and for the first time Pomare read the words— "Ex-Queen of Tahiti."

On the 8th, M. Bruat was duly installed as "Governor of the French Possessions in Oceania," and his Excellency took up his quarters in the Ex-Queen Pomare's residence, her Majesty still taking refuge in my father's house. M. Bruat admired the carriage and approved the furniture presented by Queen Victoria to Queen Pomare, and was not too fastidious to use them. His first proclamation, as Governor, concluded with these words: — "If France is strong enough to pardon much, she knows how to punish. Peace to good citizens, misfortune to disturbers—the sword of the law shall overtake them whatever their rank or under whatever colour they seek to hide their fatal projects!"

It was reported that the Queen would be forcibly taken from the British Consulate; she therefore went from my father's house on board H.M.S. 'Dublin,' where she remained until the report was contradicted. Returning then to the Consulate, she remained there until the 31st January, 1844, when the rumour being revived, she took refuge on board H.B.M. ketch 'Basilisk,' commander Hunt, a little vessel of two guns only, which had brought despatches from Admiral Thomas ordering the 'Dublin' to proceed to the Sandwich Islands. Half an hour after the Queen had gone on board the 'Basilisk,' ten gendarmes appeared at my father's door, stood there for some minutes and then marched off. Chief after chief was taken prisoner and confined on board the French frigates in the harbour,—all for imaginary offenses, until at last the excitement of the natives told plainly they could not submit quietly much longer.

The 'Basilisk' being anchored opposite the Consulate, two sentinels were always on guard, night and day, close to my father's gate, watching every movement in the house and on board the ketch. Scheme after scheme was devised to entrap her Majesty,—and failing her Majesty, to get possession of her children; but all failed. At length Governor Bruat applied privately and personally to Commander Hunt, to send the Queen or one of her children on shore on some pretext or another, just to give his Excellency the opportunity to capture the one or the other. "When Commander Hunt replied that he could not possibly think of so abusing the confidence of the Queen, or of sending a little child away from his mother, his Excellency coolly remarked, "Pomare will still have two children with her,—quite enough for any woman's parental' affections!" And M. Bruat was a married man, and had his wife with him.

On the 19th February, 1844, H. M. steamship 'Cormorant,' Captain G. F. Gordon, arrived at Tahiti. In a few days it was reported that the natives, a large party of whom had assembled in one of the mountain fortresses, were coming down to attack the French in Papeete. All was excitement,—soldiers marching here and marching there, sentries in this place and sentries in that

place, drums beating to quarters at every rustle among the leaves. Martial law was proclaimed, and a proclamation issued commanding all persons to be in their houses or on board their ships, and all lights out by eight o'clock in the evening; giving power to the gendarmerie to enter any houses they might suspect of harbouring malcontents, or, indeed, suspect of anything else, and authorizing the patrols to arrest or shoot, as they thought proper, any persons not implicitly complying with the proclamation. It soon appeared that my father was a marked man.

In the afternoon of the 3rd of March, just as he was about to step into the 'Cormorant's' boat, to go on board that vessel on official business, with Captain Gordon,—and in presence of my mother, who was standing on the verandah,—he was seized by a party of gendarmes, and, without ceremony, led through mud and rain to a "blockhouse," hastily prepared for his reception. No reason whatever was assigned for his capture, no charge alleged, either to my father or to Captain Gordon.

The place to which my father was taken, commonly called a "blockhouse," was a building fifteen feet by ten, and twenty feet high, and in place of doors and windows, had loopholes every two feet apart, just large enough to admit the muzzle of a musket. Ten feet from the ground was a floor, dividing the building into upper and lower compartments. A ladder led up to this floor from the outside, through an opening just wide enough to admit one man at a time. The lower compartment had the bare, wet ground for floor, and as the building was on the side of a hill, the rain, which fell in torrents, drained down the slope, making the place quite a mud-hole. My father ascended the ladder, and when the last soldier had followed, it was drawn up and put down into the lower compartment through a trap door, and my father ordered to descend to his quarters below. As he stepped off the ladder, he alighted ankle-deep in mud, and found a mattress, blanket, and bolster for his bedding; no other furniture was there in the place.

My father asked the officer in command to let my mother know where he was, just to relieve her mind. But nay,—martial law knows not the feelings of a wife. And for sixteen hours my father lay in his dungeon without tasting food or water, without changing his wet clothes, or my mother knowing what had become of him: he might have been hanged or shot for all she knew. At the end of the sixteen hours my mother heard where he was, and at once sent him food and clothes. The guards examined everything, even the plates, to see that there was no secret message written by the wife to her husband, and then gave the prisoner a little cake, a little water, and a change of clothes,—at the same time handing him a paper with the Commandant's signature and these words;—“A French sentinel was attacked in the night of the 2nd to the 3rd of March. In reprisal, I have caused to be seized one

Pritchard, the only daily mover and instigator of the disturbance of the natives. His property shall be answerable for all damages occasioned to our establishment by the insurgents; and if French blood is spilt, every drop shall recoil on his head." No sentinel had been attacked; but that did not matter. And instead of moving the natives to attack the French, my father had exerted all his influence to prevent a collision, well knowing that if the Tahitians drove the French into the sea, France could send men enough to sink the island itself.

From this time my mother was allowed to supply food at 8 A.M. and at 4 p.m. As the servant who took the food was seen approaching, a soldier advanced to meet him some fifty yards from the prison, to prevent any communication with my father. It was solitary confinement, the only man entering the dungeon being the soldier who passed the food through the trap-door. On the third day after his arrest, my father had a severe attack of dysentery, and begged that the Commandant would allow Dr. Johnston, who attended our family, to see him. In reply the Commandant stated he was "truly sorry the exigencies of his position did not allow him to comply with the request except under certain restrictions," which were "as soon as Dr. Johnston presents himself at the blockhouse, accompanied by the interpreter Latour, he shall be introduced to the upper story; the trap-door shall be opened, and the prisoner shall converse for ten minutes with the doctor, but the doctor shall not be permitted to descend into the chamber of the invalid. Dr. Johnston shall be admitted to converse in this manner with the prisoner at 8 a.m. and at 4 p.m. daily, and the medicines shall also be sent at these hours." As soon as Dr. Johnston saw the place in which, my father was confined, he pronounced it unfit even for the dungeon of a dog, and requested that a French doctor might be sent for. M. La Stoioue attended, and declared the place very suitable and proper for the prisoner! Nevertheless, Dr. Johnston represented to the Commander that, to save my father's life, it was absolutely necessary to remove him at once. In the meantime the dysentery increased, and a fever supervened, which brought my father so low that the exertion of clambering up the ladder and standing on the upper step, to let the doctor feel his pulse, induced so great a tremor and excitement throughout his frame, as to make it utterly impossible to ascertain his real condition. In reply, my father was allowed to go into the upper story, and to sit there ten minutes for the doctor to examine him. No conversation was allowed on any subject other than the dysentery and the fever; and the medicines were emptied out of the papers in which the doctor wrapped them, the papers minutely scrutinized to detect any writing that might be a secret message, and then the medicines put back. On the 8th the Commandant was convinced by Dr. Johnston that if my father remained in the blockhouse another three days, it would cost him his life. At night my father was startled from a doze by the opening of the trap-door, and a soldier descending the



ladder with a lantern, followed by an officer, who stated that he had orders from the Governor to convey the prisoner on board the French frigate 'La Meurte.' A guard escorted my father, at dead of night, from the blockhouse to the seashore, where an armed boat was awaiting him. Not a word was spoken above a whisper, and the officer in command never relaxed his tight grasp of my father's arm until the prisoner was safely in the boat between the bayonets of the marines.

Arrived on board the frigate, he was put into a compartment on the main-deck, screened off for the occasion from all intercourse with the rest of the ship. As compared to the place from which he had just passed in a high fever, and through the damp midnight air, this was a palace. In the "blockhouse," not to particularize the vermin and dirt generally which fell through the flooring of the upper room, the guard spat about the place so much that there was a continual drop, drop, drop through the crevices on to my father's head or face, as he happened to be sitting or lying on his mattress. Captain Gordon, of H.M.S. *Cormorant*, demanded the release of my father; and after a rather sharp and brisk correspondence, the Governor agreed to put him on board the '*Cormorant*,' after the vessel was at sea, if Captain Gordon would give a pledge that there should be no intercourse with the shore. By the firm persistence of Captain Gordon, my mother was afterwards allowed to meet my father at sea, on condition that they merely took leave of each other, without making any arrangements as to my father's property or anything else. On the 13th of March, 1844, the '*Cormorant*' steamed out from Papeete harbour, and when well out to sea, awaited the French boats. After some little delay—just to exercise the patience of the British commander—my father was put on board, took leave of my mother, and the '*Cormorant*' steered for Valparaiso; and thus were the French rid of my father.

"While my father was in the "blockhouse," the report of a musket was heard one morning, followed quickly by the sound of drums heating to arms. My mother, to whom a copy of the proclamation containing the words, "if any French blood is spilt, every drop shall recoil on his head," had been politely sent by the Governor, thought the next she would hear would be the execution of the threat, and awaited the result of the call to arms with trembling anxiety; and my father momentarily awaited the same result, as he lay on his hard bed, and heard the sentinels cock their pieces, while the sergeant of the guard gave the order to look well to the prisoner. But their anxiety was relieved, and my father still lives, a hale, hearty old man. It turned out to be a false alarm. Two erratic donkeys, not considering themselves bound by martial law, were spoiling about the bush in search of grass; as they passed one of the sentries, he heard the leaves rustle, and concluding at once that the natives were coming, fired in the direction of the noise. Though the donkeys

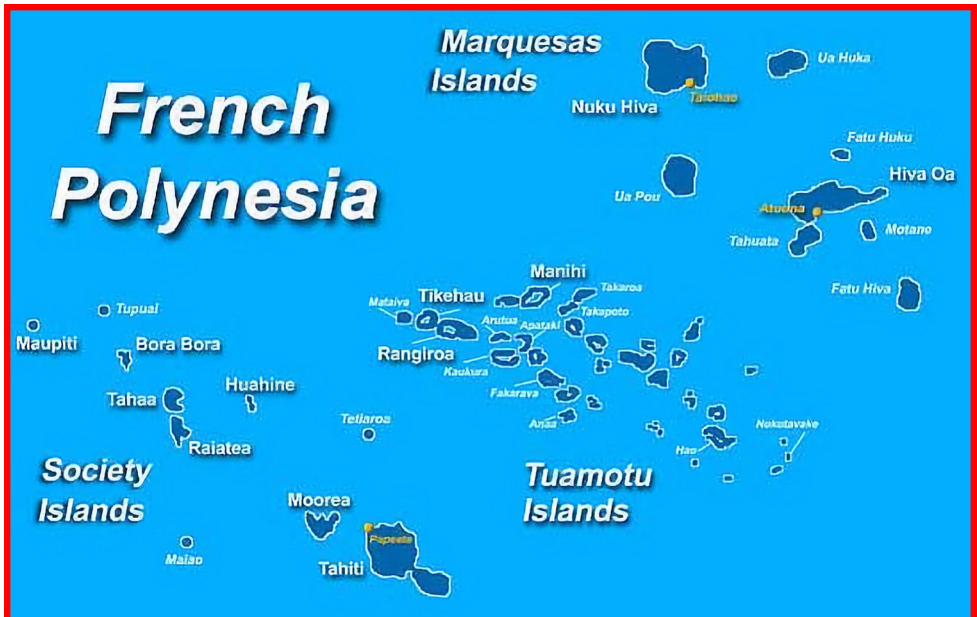
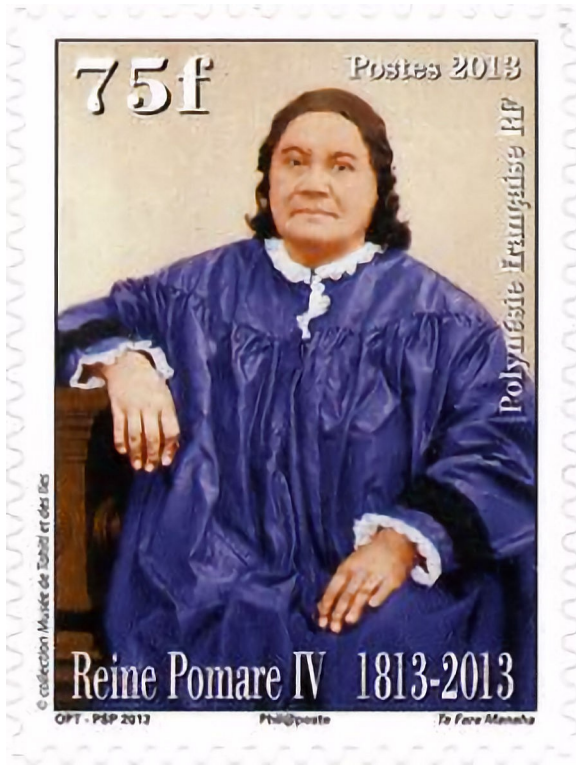
escaped the bullet of the watchful sentry, they could not evade the vigilance of the commandant. They were duly captured and duly impounded, in the Governor's yard for I don't know how many days.

Proceeding to Valparaiso in the 'Cormorant,' my father there found his old friend. Commodore Toup Nicolas; and together they came home to England in the 'Vindictive.' In his place in the House of Commons, Sir Robert Peel declared "a gross indignity has been offered to Britain in the person of her Consul and some sort of apology was tardily made by the French Government of the day.

But what compensation did my father ever receive, further than the intimation conveyed to him by Lord Aberdeen, that the "French Government had pledged themselves to indemnify Mr. Pritchard for his pecuniary losses, his illegal imprisonment, and the consequent sufferings of his wife and family," and "had apologized for the insult offered to the British nation in the person of the Consul"? Leaving Tahiti as he did, his immediate pecuniary losses were, in round numbers, about £4000. My mother had to do the best she could for herself and family, and she found it necessary to be off from Tahiti as quickly as possible, for the Frenchmen annoyed and insulted her in every possible way, even to sending gendarmes on to the premises to kill pigs and fowls, and to taunt her as she stood on her own verandah.

From the Foreign Office my father received, while in England, the sum of £1000, for which he gave the following receipt:— Received from the Earl of Aberdeen the sum of £1000, which I promise to repay to her Majesty's Government when I receive my indemnity from the French Government." This receipt bears date the 12th or 13th of January, 1845. Towards the end of 1846 another £1000 was "loaned" to him by the Foreign Office on the same conditions; and there, with fine phrases, wordy apologies, ample pledges, and considerable loss, the matter rests, so far as my father and his indemnity is concerned. My father's consular district comprised Tahiti, Samoa, Tonga, and Fiji, with the intermediate islands.

After the "Tahiti affair", he was directed by their Foreign Office to return to his post, making Samoa his residence. In 1845 my parents went there, and my mother having returned to England, I joined my father in 1848, after he who had made Pomare an "ex-Queen" had himself become an "ex-King."





## CONCLUSION SUMMARY

Queen Pōmare IV (28 February 1813 – 17 September 1877), 'Aimata Pōmare IV Vahine-o-Punuatera'itua was the Queen of Tahiti between 1827 and 1877. She was the fourth monarch of the Kingdom of Tahiti. She succeeded as ruler of Tahiti after the death of her brother Pōmare III when she was only 14 years old.

In 1843, the French declared Tahiti a French protectorate and installed a governor at Papeete. She fought in vain against French intervention, writing to the King Louis Philippe I of France and Queen Victoria, asking in vain for British intervention, and exiling herself to Raiatea in protest. What followed was the bloody French-Tahitian War which lasted from 1843 to 1847, involving every kingdom of the Society Islands. The Tahitians suffered many casualties, but the French losses were also great.

Although the British never assisted the Tahitians, they actively condemned France and war nearly broke between the two powers in the Pacific. These conflicts ended in the defeat of the Tahitian forces at the Fort of Fautaua. The French were victorious, but they weren't able to annex the island due to diplomatic pressure from Great Britain, so Tahiti and Moorea continued to be ruled under the French protectorate. A clause to the war settlement was that Queen Pōmare's allies in Huahine, Raiatea, and Bora Bora would be allowed to remain independent.

Pōmare IV eventually relented and ruled under the French administration from 1847 until 1877. She attempted to install her children in positions of power in Tahiti and the Leeward Islands. Three of her children were to become monarchs in their own right: King Pōmare V of Tahiti (reign 1877–1880), Queen Teri'imaevarua II of Bora Bora (reign 1860–1873), King Tamatoa V of Raiatea-Tahaa (reign 1857–1871).

In December 1822, Pōmare married the future King Tapoa II of Taha'a and Bora Bora. In 1830, Tahiti was visited by HMS Seringapatam, and her captain William Waldegrave noted in his diary with some surprise that Pōmare was then sixteen years old and married but had no children. The marriage remained childless and ended with the Queen repudiating it on the ground that Tapoa was sterile.

On 5 December 1832, Pōmare was married again, this time to her first cousin, Tenani'a Ari'ifa'aite a Hiro (10 January 1820 – 6 August 1873). By her second husband, she had born:

A boy (1833, died young of dysentery).

Henry Pōmare (August 1835, died young of dysentery).

Ari'iaue Pōmare (12 August 1838 – 10 May 1856), Crown Prince of Tahiti, Ari'i of Afa'ahiti.

Pōmare V (3 November 1839 – 12 June 1891), succeeded as King of Tahiti.

Teri'imaevavua II (23 May 1841 – 12 February 1873), succeeded as Queen of Bora Bora.

Tamatoa V (23 September 1842 – 30 September 1881), succeeded as King of Ra'iātea and Taha'a.

Victoria Pōmare-vahine (1844 – June 1845).

Punuari'i Teri'itapunui Pōmare (20 March 1846 – 18 September 1888), Ari'i of Mahina and President of the Tahitian High Court.

Teri'itua Tuavira Pōmare (17 December 1847 – 9 April 1875), Ari'irahi of Hitia'a, called the "Prince of Joinville".

Tevahitua Pōmare (1850/1852, died young).

Pōmare IV died on 17 September 1877. She is buried in the Royal Mausoleum, Papa'oa, 'Arue. She was succeeded by Pōmare V, who reigned 1877–1880.





TAHITIAN ROYAL FAMILY  
POMARE DYNASTY

## About the Author

**Larry W Jones is a songwriter, having penned over 7,700 song lyrics. Published in 22 volumes of island themed, country, cowboy, western and bluegrass songs. The entire assemblage is the world's largest collection of lyrics written by an individual songwriter.**

**As a wrangler on the “Great American Horse Drive”, at age 68, he assisted in driving 800 half-wild horses 62 miles in two days, from Winter pasture grounds in far NW Colorado to the Big Gulch Ranch outside of Craig Colorado.**

**His book, “The Oldest Greenhorn”, chronicles the adventures and perils in earning the “Gate-to-Gate” trophy belt buckle the hard way.**



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